Mobile Phone Towers

*175. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are extending/propose to extend subsidy for setting up mobile phone towers to private cellular mobile service providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be spent on this as subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Subsidy is proposed to be extended to eligible companies, whether from the public or private sector, which emerge successful in the bidding process.

(b) For provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas of the country, subsidy support is proposed to be provided for shareable components like land, tower, power connection, power back up, boundary wall etc. and for non-shareable components like outdoor Base Transceiver Station with antennas and a portion of the backhaul. The infrastructure shall be created in those specified areas where there is no existing wireless coverage and shall be shared amongst three telecom service providers

The sharing of the infrastructure so created will result in lower capital cost and operating expenditure for the telecom service providers. It will promote competition and help in providing better mobile services at competitive rates to the rural subscribers.

(c) The actual amount of subsidy will depend on the assessment of service providers and their response to the tender. However, based on first projections this amount is estimated at Rs. 4000 crore.

Vehicles launched by ISRO

*176 PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the total number of vehicles launched by ISRO since 1980;

(b) the number of failures;

(c) in what manner the failure compare with international standard; and